



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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Carri Grube Lybarker
 Administrator/
 Consumer Advocate

PROTECTING CONSUMERS SINCE 1975

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November 1, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn Boyd
 Chief Clerk/Executive Director
 The Public Service Commission of South Carolina
 101 Executive Center Drive
 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Notices to the Department of Consumer Affairs

Dear Ms. Boyd:

I am writing to request the Commission revise its processes for providing notices of filings to the Department. Specifically, we ask that the Commission no longer include the Department as a party in telecommunications and transportation dockets (those ending in -C and -T) unless we have intervened in the matter. S.C. Code Ann. §34-6-604(C) states:

The Consumer Advocate shall be provided notice of any matter filed at the Public Service Commission that could impact consumers' utility rates, and may intervene as a party to advocate for the interest of consumers before the Public Service Commission and appellate courts in such matters as the Consumer Advocate deems necessary and appropriate

Currently, the Commission lists the Department as a party "for notice purposes" in all dockets. As a result, the Department receives initial filing notifications in all matters before the Commission, regardless of whether such matters could impact consumers' rates. We also receive notification of every subsequent filing or communication made in the docket even when we have not intervened. We understand it is not feasible for the Commission to only provide the Department initial filing notices in matters that could impact consumers' rates.

As you know, the Commission receives many telecommunications and transportation related filings. We believe the level of market competition that exists in these areas negates the



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need for intervention by our office at this time. Further, while Title 58 contains a broad definition of "public utility," when reinstating our ability to intervene in utility matters, it is our belief the Legislature intended the Department focus on areas where consumer choice is lacking. Therefore, in order to better utilize our resources in the representation of the consumer interest in electric, gas, sewer, water and related cases, we are asking the Commission to no longer list the Department as a party for notice purposes in transportation and telecommunications matters.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information to process this request. I can be reached directly at 803-734-4240 or RHall@scconsumer.gov. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger Hall".

Roger Hall, Esq.
Deputy Consumer Advocate